Women's Liberation: Special Report

From Reformism to Revolution: The Political Implications of Women's Lib

BY ANN LOVELL

International Women's Day was celebrated, last March 8, in cities across the U. S. A. This show of solidarity with women in Russia, Cuba, and other countries in which the liberation of women from male dominance has long been taken seriously, marks a revival of feminism as a political movement in this country.

The media, which have always used the female sex image as an attention getter or sales gimmick now seizing on the image of the new militant woman. After all, stories about a bus-load of female, clowns arriving in Atlantic City to mock the crowning of America's most beautiful daughters or helmeted lesbian weather-women giving out directions for making home-made bombs as if they were favorite recipes, do make for entertaining reading.

Wild Assortment of Groups

The wild assortment of women's groups — Redstockings, Bread and Roses, W.I.T.C.H., NOW — mentioned by the press, and the emphasis on seemingly disconnected and insignificant antics — guerilla theater, self-defense classes, mock hearings on the Pill and Abortion — often confuse the reader as to the real meaning behind women's lib. Perhaps there **is** great political significance to this movement. **What I want to talk about here is the political implications of women's liberation.**

For years the real issues of male dominance — on the personal and societal level — were clouded over by less controversial issues, such as universal suffrage. After women succeeded in winning the vote in 1920,

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Male Domination and The Feminine Myths

By BARBARA SULLIVAN

Women in American are oppressed by a male-dominated society. They must recognize their oppression and demand their freedom to be whole persons. The first and principal enemies are the feminine myths which have evolved in America and which create a false sexual dichotomy and maintain female subordination.

The characteristics of these myths are very familiar in the media, in psychological theory and in general public opinion. Women are set off from men by many of the same "innate" personality traits that have been attributed to other oppressed minorities, especially blacks and the Indians.

Women are believed to be childish, irrational, naive, emotional, unstable, innately submissive, gentle, patient, simple and pretty. Women themselves often believe in the stereotype, and they would agree with the male psychologists that because a woman's biologists function is to bear children, she should find her fulfillment in a supportive childrearing role.

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THE CAMPUS

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One-Quarter of Vermont Participates in Green-Up

BY JOHN BELL

Governor Deane C. Davis' state-wide attack on highway litter drew support last Saturday from an odd combination of young and old, liberal and conservative, and students and police as 85,000 Vermonters spent the day picking garbage from public roads.

Although the effort was dismissed by some cynics as a political move by an election-conscious Davis, the response of 25 percent of the state's population clearly transcended party lines.

Local Volunteers

In Middlebury, volunteers assigned by the co-ordinating center at Middlebury Union High School gathered rubbish with state and county highway crews as State Police directed traffic and informed motorists of the project.

Addison County alone collected 100 tons of refuse. Ironically, part of the trash was immediately returned to the environment when plastic Green-Up Day bags were burned in the Middlebury Town Dump and dense clouds of black smoke billowed over Main Street.

"Student Apathy"

Only 130 of the College's students participated in the drive, according to Environmental Quality activist Bart Hall, because of "Rush, bad weather, and typical student apathy." The keg offered by the EQG to the dorm or fraternity with the greatest number of Green-Up Day volunteers went jointly to PKT and a group of hard-working freshmen women from Battell South.

Hall attributed the general success of Green-Up Day to the "Vermont tradition of doing things together for the common good," and added that "one of the greatest things about Environmental Action is there is no worry about a generation gap."

Faculty Approves Letter Grading, Rejects Pass-Fail

The faculty adopted a letter grading system and a new method of ranking at its Monday meeting, but rejected proposals that would allow some courses to be given on a Pass-Fail basis.

The new grading system, which becomes effective next Fall, replaces the present numerical system with an A, B, C, D, F system with plus and minus used only with A, B and C.

The new ranking system would place students in large groupings, eliminating the current method of ranking students from first to last in the class.

The new systems are designed with a "bias upward" to compensate for a tendency at Middlebury to grade lower than at comparable institutions. Proponents have argued that chances for admission to graduate schools would be considerably improved under the new system.

The Faculty rejected all proposals for Pass-Fail systems. One of the proposals would have permitted departments to designate courses "Pass-Fail," another would have allowed students to take regular courses on an Honors-Pass-Fail basis.

The new ranking system is as follows:

College Scholar: 3 A's or better (no grade below C) Dean's List: 3 B's or better (no failing grades). Pass: 3 C's or better. Probation: 2 D's; 1 D, 1 F; 3 D's. Failure: 3 D's, 2 F's, 2 D's or 1 F while on Probation.

Discussion on the grading and ranking proposals which passed was short, but discussion became bogged down on the "Pass-Fail" proposals, as amendments were proposed and issues became obscured.

In other action, the faculty elected Professor Robert Ferm and Associate Professor Robert Gleason to the Faculty Council.

The faculty were also informed by President James I. Armstrong of the sale of the Middlebury Inn, the plannel unification of the Men and Women's Physical Education Departments, and an upcoming capital campaign to raise the endowment of the College.

Poirier on The Writer as Performer: The Art of Mailer, Frost & James

By KARIN ABARBANEL

Literature is a form of energy and the writer a performer, a conscious self-participant in his own act of creation. In his lecture last Friday, "The Performing Self: Mailer, Frost and James," Rutgers Professor Richard Poirier was concerned with the crucial distinction between the writer's act and its product, between his "powers of rendition" and the meaning which that rendition might convey. The writer is involved in an "act of local performance" which results in a complete literary entity, a performance for public consumption.

The author inevitably finds himself poised between the public concept of the "writer's vision" and his personal perception of the multiple local acts which comprise his work of art. The writer's concept of the nature and potency of his power of performance should be considered if he is to understand the creator as a performer and if the reader is to understand the performer as a creator.

Poirier believed that Frost conceived of his poetry as a demonstration of literary prowess, an act of dynamic association and coherent energy. Frost's concern with his role as a public performer expressed itself at times as a "disdain for social conditions." Poetry was a force, an animate vehicle for the expression of "grief without grievance." Frost was content to allow, "The world to stew in its own materialism" as long as its existence provided the artist with substance for his independent act of creation.

Poetry is an act of both impregnation and birth, and yet it is basically irrelevant to social life. The artist uses the world to create his own reality; yet he does not form the world, but performs his poetry.

For James and Mailer the act of literary performance is intimately related to the concept of the writer as a potent political force. Mailer, in developing a metaphor traces the current of his own personal historical consciousness. The local act of performance, a poem or

(Continued on Page 8)

P. E. Program Change Advised

Modification of the present physical education requirement was recommended to the faculty this week by the Physical Education Department in conjunction with the Educational Policy Committee.

The proposal would limit the P. E. requirement to one year and concentrate the program "on the so-called life-time sports." The P.E. Department explains that the proposed program would better meet the requirements of students in terms of their "long run physical, mental and emotional well-being."

More Flexible

The new program would eliminate the present two-year compulsory program, and substitute a more flexible but required program of five credits that could be distributed throughout the student's four years. The

(Continued on Page 2)

P. E. Change...

(Continued ffrom Page 1)

student would have the option of number of different ways.

Credits would be granted for attending Phys. Ed. classes, completing "approved independent programs," playing in intercollegiate athletics, or gaining exemptions by "demonstrating qualifications at or above the intermediate level" in dual or individual sports. Three such exemptions would fulfill the requirement, if one included dance.

Credit for Term Sports

A maximum of three credits would be given granted for participation in intercollegiate fulfilling the requirement in a athletics, one credit per season. Good athletes, could complete the program quickly, the Department notes, by earning three exemptions.

Dance would be required for one credit, and swimming would be required if the student were unable to pass a pool test.

The proposals came out of consultation with the Athletic Policy Committee after a survey of 23 other colleges similar in size and orientation to Middlebury.

Lack of Interest

Richard Colman, Director of Athletics, explained in a telephone interview that in the schools surveyed where the physical education requirement had been dropped, "their programs died completely" due to "a lack of interest on the kids' part." He said, "The general feeling is that if you want any program at all, you have to have it required," and noted that the P. E. proposal was "just about as free as it could be."

NEWS SHORTS

Deadline For Committees

Any student who wishes to be considered for a place on a faculty-student committee should send his name, box number, phone number, major, class, and a brief statement of his intentions for the committee, to box 810 by tomorrow.

Admissions committee: 2 student seats.
Athletic Policy Committee: 2 student seats. One man, one woman, preferably upperclassmen.
Computer Committee: 2 student seats. One to be work study dealing with computer, other familiar with computers.
Concert, Film and Lecture Committee: 3 student seats.
Curriculum Committee: 4 student seats, one from each division of the college.
Educational Policy Committee: 2 student seats, possibly two more next year.
Library Committee: 2 student seats.
Teacher Education: 2 student seats.

Student-taught Courses

This Spring BOG has instituted a series of student-taught courses in an attempt to make use of Middlebury students' extensive non-academic resources. Volunteers are now teaching courses in such diverse fields as karate, classical piano, trampolining, and chess. Through Middlebury Forum, many students are teaching similar courses to local school children. The courses are independently run except for BOG's organizational and publicity role. Next fall BOG plans to increase both course offerings and enrollment. If the craft center opens and with new facilities available in the SDU's, a great range of courses will be possible.

Allen Hall To Be Co-ed

German, Spanish and Russian students, men and women, who want to live in Allen Hall should sign up in the respective department offices. Students need not be majors of the specific languages, but should have some background in the language and be interested in speaking it.

Senior Questionaire

Seniors are urgently requested to fill out and return to the Dean's office the senior questionnaire mailed to them just after spring vacation. The News Service, Placement, and the Dean's offices need this information. Extra copies are available in the Dean's office. Thanks for your prompt cooperation.

Square Dance Downtown

Everyone is invited to a dance to be held in the Municipal building Saturday, May 2. A square dance band and a rock band will play alternately from eight to ten o'clock. Though there will be no door charge, donations will be accepted for a fund to aid underprivileged residents of Addison County.

Beyond The Law

Norman Mailer's movie **Beyond the Law** will be shown Saturday, April 25th at 7 p.m.

The film — Mailer's second—is a documentary-style study of three detectives on a big city police force. It stars Mailer himself, and a group of his friends including actor Rip Torn, actress Beverly Bentley (Mrs. Mailer), writer George Plimpton, playwright Michael McClure, and former prizefighter (and Mailer sparring partner) Jose Torres. **Beyond the Law** is not just a home movie, though, and it generally received good reviews.

Good & Tough

New York Times critic Vincent Canby said the film "is so good and tough and entertaining so much of the time that you simply have to forgive those moments when the actors suddenly smirk self-consciously — like the Gas House Gang caught in an amateur theatrical — and when it becomes unintelligible, as old Word Head himself does occasionally."

Mailer A Top Cop

As described in **Variety**, the "film shows a night at a Manhattan police station and then details how three of the detectives spend the remaining evening hours following their shifts. Mailer himself portrays the station house's top cop and thereby provides a complex portrait of a man which has all the depth and complexity of a character in one of the author's novels. He is the only one among all the policemen who directly understands the film's main theme — that there isn't much difference between being a successful gendarme and a successful criminal.

The most popular state flowers are the rose (six states); fruit blossoms (four states); and the violet, (three states).

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Letters...

Continued from page 7

to make cars, or Agway to sell nitrate and phosphate fertilizer; the SST must go, we'll have to ride trains, more people will live in the country and fewer in the cities, and, yes, wastes will be recycled.

Somehow.

Cleaning up, on Green-Up Day.

John Allen

Ripped Rap

To The Editor:

Quote from Letter to the Editor, the Middlebury Campus, Thursday, April 16, 1970: "**The time has finally come when I feel that I must speak about some things which seem to me undeniable necessities.**" This young lady's first statement was her last thoughtful one, since she merely repeated what has been said seven-times-seventy times, that is, about Middlebury College.

" 'The time has come,' the walrus said, 'to talk of many things. . .' " Middlebury College, I will strongly agree, has lots of problems in its makeup, many of which were mentioned in last week's **Campus**. I know them, you know them, and (get this) Armstrong and O'Brien know them. I wonder where that grabs you. Man, we keep shouting and yelling about our shitty establishment here, and you know what the result is? Shouting and yelling. Nothing else. Nothing. No one **acts** to improve anything. Look at our anti-pollution campaign. Look again at Proctor Terrace. We sound like spoiled children crying for more but waiting for someone else to do it., and we know just how far our whining can go before Mommy and Daddy stop handing out the money.

The problem, in my opinion (an ignorant one still), lies not merely — **in fact not basically** with the college. You think you're going to learn where the world is at in four years. College is only your starting block, a place that teaches you which way to qquestion, but you can't expect it to teach you which way to answer. That's up to you.

I see the problem set firmly in the students here and in the ways they relate and (more often) do not relate to one another. People can be really good if you go out and try to find them. Instead our only exemptions from hermitage are what we call "conversations" about drugs, sex, and occasionally, the "universal truths" of what we think life is all about. And what is worse is that the conversations are not conversations but alternating monologues in which the only person anyone listens to is himself. Man, shut up once in a while and really listen to someone. You can learn things that way. Instead our talk is useless and absurd. We are all supposed to be real people, but we're more artificial than anyone, cause we claim to be real while reading the lines. I see this falseness as contributing to the tension between girls and guys on this campus, a tension which has messed up a lot of people, myself among them.

It's hopeless, it really is. We could really make something of this place, but you know, everyone is just too hung up on himself., H-I-M-S-EL-F.

Now you can all close the newspaper and in your self righteousness rest assured that you're not like that. I guess.

A Student

Dog Petition

In response to a statement from the Dean's office (The Campus, April 16), a group of students have circulated a petition in support of the right to have pets on campus.

The petition, written by freshman Charlie Auer, requests that the administration allow students living on campus to own dogs and cats. Auer stated that this is an "anti-complaint" to counter the Dean's statement "complaining" of the presence of the pets on campus.

The petition says nothing about regulations for pet owners or where they would keep their dogs. It is only an opinion survey: Do the Students want to keep dogs on campus or not?

The petition now has 500 signatures gathered outside Proctor and the SDUs. Copies of the petition are now circulating the fraternities. It will be submitted to the administration when the goal of 800 signatures is reached. This would constitute a majority of the student body.

Frustration

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to several recent administrative decisions: The Muirhead-Bumbeck decision, the suspension of the Classics Department, the refusal to allow a student-faculty initiated course on Buckminster Fuller and several thousand other grotesque, in loco parentis, authoritarian, reactionary stands by the administration.

I do not wish to go into a liberalized discussion of the pros and cons of each of these decisions. I merely wish to point

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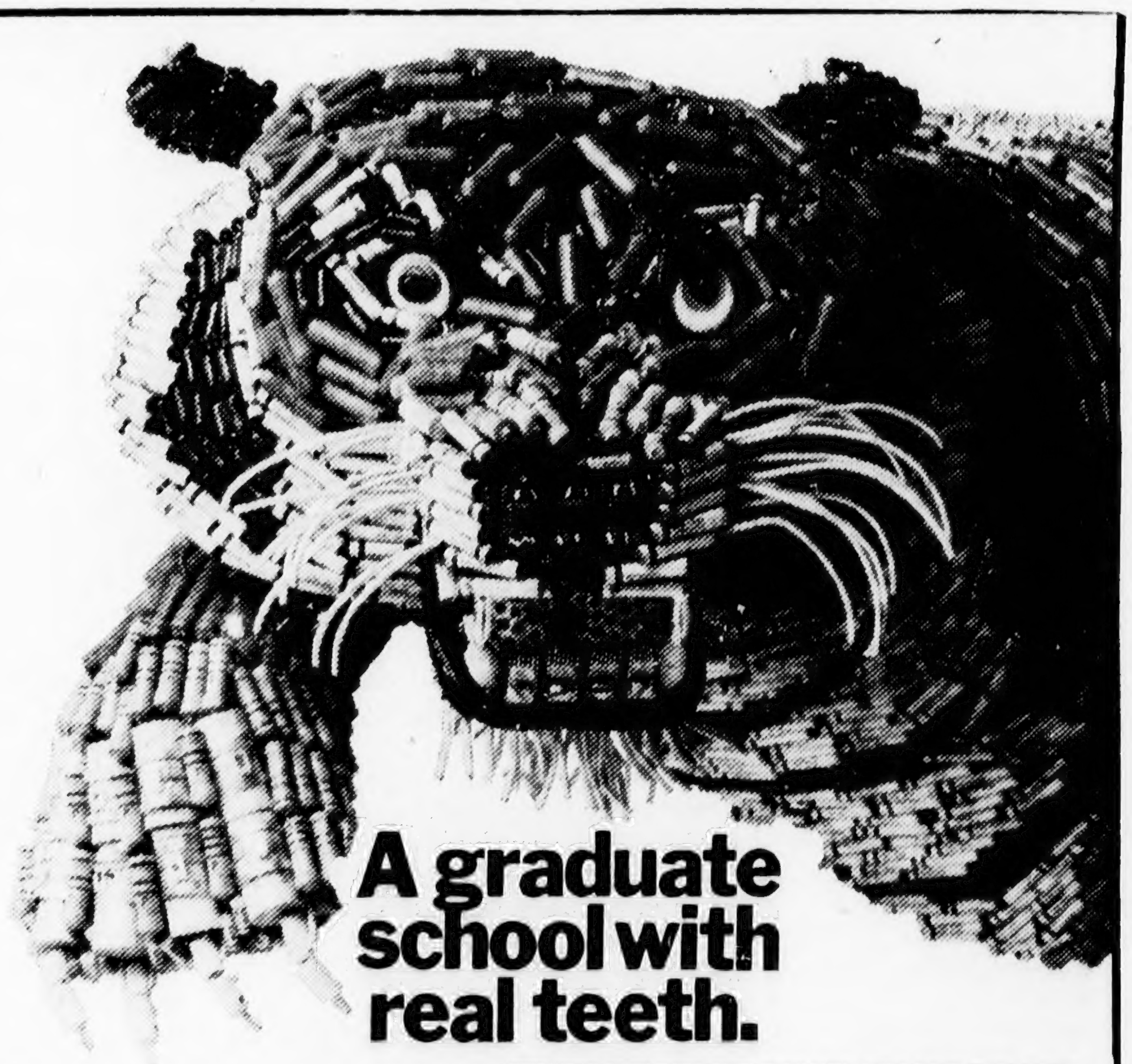
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Male Domination and The Feminine Myths

(Continued from Page 1)

"Normal" women accept the idea that they have less innate capability than men and they limit their expectations accordingly. A woman with a weakly developed ego is "natural."

This theory of femaleness places women in a category with other animals who are primarily defined by their biological nature. Women's role as the "sustainer" is considered an adequate outlet for her individual creative and productive desires. Her full creative satisfaction can be realized in such home based activities as menu planning, interior decorating, gardening, etc. What happens in reality is that women who fail to "find themselves" in cooking, cleaning and raising children—much of which is routine drudgery — attempt to resolve their own impotence by living through their husbands or children. This, of course, is not satisfactory for anyone involved.

At the center of the happy housewife mythology is the unchallenged social unit, the nuclear family, which is the dominant living arrangement in American society. Marriage and separate family units are the norm; and for the woman this means that the accepted method of gaining status is through marriage even though it may entail enslavement to house work, husband and children for the rest of her life.

The foremost goal for most women is marriage. A woman who does not marry is considered abberrant — a neurotic old maid — and married women are known by who their husbands are. Men, on the other hand, are known by what they do. If they don't marry they may be carefree bachelors or perhaps serious career men.

The process of socialization is repeated in the nuclear family where a girl learns the qualities she will need to please a man, where as the boy is oriented toward what work he will do.

Educational discrimination serves to reinforce the double standard. By the time a girl has reached her late teens she is convinced (by myths of female inferiority and by the mystification of "romantic love") that her fulfillment will come in marriage and in serving her man with charm and passive submission.

If the situation seems exaggerated we have only to look at the business world and its most powerful weapon, advertising. The beauty market plays on the woman's need to be a beautiful object, her need to exploit her own sexuality in order to succeed in a male-dominated society. She buys beauty products to attract men, achieve acceptance and thereby gain security. Once she has achieved this "security" in the form of marriage, businessmen exploit her role as housewife. Because advertisers recognize that housework is mostly debasing and demoralizing, they promise adventure, glamor or simply relief in order to sell more floor wax, detergents, disposable diapers and baby food. Houshold products become a chief means for a woman to "be creative" and to assert her individuality.

The media contribute to the exploitation of women, who make up ¾ of the consumer market, not only by selling them unneeded products, but also by reinforcing the stereotyped images of fulfilled housewives, and sexual pleasure machines which women are asked to identify with.

Female oppression extends to all sectors of our unjust and dehumanizing society. Discrimination is carried over into the world of the working woman as well. A woman seeking to escape from the marriage-children housework syndrome faces further obstacles in the area of employment. Unlike those few privileged "career women" who have interesting and fairly autonomous positions, the majority of working women are in service jobs playing supportive roles once again. They are secretaries, nurses, waitresses, hostesses, telephone operators and salesgirls.

Their job is to serve, to make things smoother and more pleasant for others. Women are not encouraged in schools or the home to enter other fields; and business and professional schools discriminate against women because of the turnover risks of possible marriage and pregnancy. For these same reasons women receive lower wages than men. Alternatives for child-care and house-care are not available to women and so they must accept this discrimination as "justifiable." Often they must take unsatisfying, part time jobs to supplement their unsatisfying marital experience.

Those who would object to this dim view of the oppressed female cite the new "liberated woman" as an example of one who gained her independence. What is meant is that some women have broken through the sexual double standard of female premarital sexual experience. (The woman, however, is still not expected to make overt sexual advances towards men.)

But these are small considerations. The reality is that the physically "liberated women" are still dependent on a male-dominated health-care industry (drug companies, private physicians, and hospitals) which does not encourage the dissemination of birth control information or devices among unmarried women who have not yet discovered a 100 percent safe and effective contraceptive device.

As was revealed in the recent Senate hearings on the safety of birth control pills many doctors have failed to inform women of the potentially harmful side-effects of the pill or to inform them fully of alternative forms of contraception. The drug industry last year, inspite of the pill's hazards, made $120 million selling their product to thousands of uninformed women. The so-called "liberated woman" is subject to further controls over her body if she wants an abortion under current abortion statutes in most states a woman, if pregnant, must choose between maternity and the often dangerous and degrading experience of an illegal abortion. These laws pertain to married women as well as unmarried, and covers all pregnancies except those endangering life or mental health and those incurred by rape.

These laws are based on decisions by moral people whose religious convictions tell them that these women deserve their fate, or others who feel that the group of cells growing inside a woman's womb is of more importance than her own health and happiness.

Because of these "moral" decrees thousands of women each year must seek illegal abortions. Over 350,000 women a year suffer severe complications such as hemorrhaging, infection, and sterlity from such operations, and many thousands die. The most flagrant injustice in these laws is that poor and black women suffer most. Without money they are unable to afford the legal and safe abortions available to wealthier women. Out of one million abortions performed each year in America only 1 percent (9,000) are legal, and of these, 90 pecent are given to whites.

But if women suffer from these laws there is one group which profits. Illegal abortion is the third most lucrative Mafia racket in the country. How "liberated" is a woman who does not have the right to the inexpensive, safe and simple operation which could be performed if the laws permitted, and which would give her the freedom in sexual relations now enjoyed only by men?

On March 28 and 29 an all-women conference was held at Goddard College, and several Middlebury women attended. The weekend included a showing of slides, discussions, and workshops on various Women's Liberation issue. Girls who had been members of the first Venceremos Brigade, that went to harvest sugar cane in Cuba last winter, spoke of the role of women in Cuban society. The relationship of women to population control was also discussed, and classes in Yoga, Judo and Karate were given. Plans are being made to establish a Woman's Center in Vermont which will provide child-care, legal and medical counselling, and will serve as a general residence for women. A list of Vermont women involved in the movement has been published, and further information may be obtained by contacting: Marris Gewant, Box 261, Putney, Vt.

WOMEN'S L1B

There will be a conference for all interested Middlebury women from the college and the town on Sunday, May 3, at 1:00 p.m. in Forest East Lounge. Speakers, slides and discussion, and plans to establish an information center on campus will be included.

Women's

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From Reformism to Revolution: The Political Implications of Women's Lib

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their political activities consisted of long hours of busy-work indoors and of canvassing outdoors to put men into office. (Although women provide half of the vote, they only hold 1% of the elected offices in the U. S. A.)

Meanwhile the image of the liberated middle-class American female was created: as a young girl she could go to college or even enter the business world in one of many glamourous capacities, such as airline hostess or top-notch executive secretary. In her home, gadgets and pre-packaged foods made the hours spent in housework (to the accompaniment of TV soap operas) seem lighter. Flossy magazines gave her models of "free" women to look up to and advised her how to "adjust" to shaky marriages in which she seemed to be losing **her** freedom. Society was even presenting her with a variety of possible relationships with the Stronger Sex, not restricted by the yoke of marriage.

In 1963, Betty Frieden published a book, **The Feminine Mystique,** which shook a lot of neurotic, lonely housewives out of their self-contained efficiency homes and domestic servitude. The National Organization of Women, also founded by Frieden, demanded civil rights for women, too: equal employment opportunities, day-care facilities, fair abortion laws — in other words, a privileged position in a privileged society.

Reformist Movement

This reformist, primarily middle-class movement is still going strong, and today it is complemented by the growth of small "support" groups among women of all ages. They hold sensitivity, encounter and other therapeutic sessions, and "consciousness-raising" meetings to help one another adjust to dehumanizing situation or to the idea of **changing** that situation.

More recently a second current in women's rights has been felt: this is a radical movement which gained its impetus in the Left. For years, the Old Left conceived of itself as privileged and well-off in a social system which oppressed workers, black, the colonized, etc. However, as the New Left became conscious of the oppression of the **individual** under capitalism, women began to understand their exploitation by this system.

"The position of women has always been given importance in these (Marxist Leninist) societies": A North Vietnamese Women's Militia member.

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all women.
Because women are subject to
by sadistic males they must have
defense and not depend on men
and karate courses for women.
qual educational and vocational
r women. Recruitment and ac-
professional schools for an equal

tory and sexual inequality should
hools.
en on college and graduate facu-

tion and stereotyping of women
ercial advertising, and especially
ld products market.

Movement Women

From there, Movement women discovered
their powerlessness and low status within
al organizations was no different than in
larger society. In the Movement, they did
irty work,, or, to paraphrase Stokely Carmi-
l, the best position for them was prone. (A
r of women's lib, Roxanne Dunbar, ex-
s the built-in masculine structure of radi-
groups with the thesis that white men are
icians who never question their right to
r. Although their social consciousness al-
them to work for revolutionary change,
also expect power in the new social order).
Even in the counter-culture movement,
en were and are considered sexual objects
ior to men: pop music degrades them: us-
their only connection with rock artists is
"groupies." Even the stereotyped earth-
er or hippy chick in a commune still cooks,
s, and stands behind her man.

Two Directions

Thus today Women's Lib is moving in at
two major directions: reform within so-
, such as advocated by N. O. W., and
al change of the basic structures of so-
itself. The latter view often appears
gerated, if not absurd. In fact, many wom-
ho consider themselves sexually free and
ied down to their family or to an exploita-
job, reject it. But these are only a **few**
en (only 34% of American women hold
outside the home, and these are usually
paying service jobs). In fact, many jobs
by both men and women are unfulfilling.
Women's Liberation does not involve, ba-
ly, an individual relationship with one's
and or boyfriend. It is deeply tied to the
nizational structure of society and — in
untry where status is based primarily on
pation — to the economic basis of the
ty. In other words, as long as women
not completely integrated into the work
, they are by definition inferior to men.

Revolutionary Women

In the United States, we are taught to be
idually oriented; we internalize personal,
ective values even at the university level
when we "find ourselves" or "do our own
g." This is why it is often inconceivable for women to think of themselves as a socio-economic group, like a class, distinct from men. For a clear understanding of this sort of analysis, we must turn to women in socialist or revolutionary societies.

The position of women has always been given importance in these societies, possibly because Marxism - Leninism is the only political ideology which has considered women a disinherited group which could furnish the basis of support (along with the proletariat) for a new group in the social revolution.

Engels wrote that the domestic slavery of women was the first form of private property. Infact, anthropology is filled with examples to prove that in no society has the woman been truly equal to man. She is always a possession, or a status symbol. She is the first oppressed human being. And, according to Engels, as long as she is subjugated to male domination in the nuclear family, no true "sex-love" between male and female is possible. She is **not** a human being as such, but rather a possession, caught in an economic, not human, relationship.

So long as a person's worth is determined by the value of his or her work, the woman who works without receiving wages will be inferior, except for reproduction.

During the Chinese Revolution, the Communist Party recognized the revolutionary potential of Chinese women. In his account of the late '40's, **China Shakes the World,** Jack Belden destroys the old myth that the Cninese women accepted the inhumane treatment under which they existed. Historically, the rural ruling classes had the largest numbers of concubines, wives and slave-girls.

Confucianism and the philosophy which made the female element inferior in nature itself reinforced the woman's lowly status. Even while the Communists fought Chiang-KaiShek's armies, women were still "slaves." In the cities, they were sold into prostitution by their families. In country areas, they were married off at an early age to men from other the spouse's family, often beaten and constrained to the house.

(To be continued next week)

Letters

Editor's note: In recent weeks The Campus has received and published several anonymous letters. In the future, all letters to the Editor must be signed by the writer or they will not be printed. Names will be withheld upon request.

Earth Day

To the Editors and to the Middlebury College Environmental Quality Group: some thoughts for Earth Day:

I am in sympathy with the efforts of the Environmental Quality Group, as reported in the **Campus** issue of March 12, but a campaign of switching off unused electric lights and boycotting no-return bottles cannot lead far. The trashcart has been neatly placed before the horse; we push it and the horse does not even follow. The busy security of picking up trash from roadsides on Green-Up Day: the consumer cleans up while government and industry take another day off.

The United States has 85 million private automobiles. That's enough for 400 million Americans to go for a Sunday drive in. There are only 210 million Americans. The Chrysler Corporation annual report, tacked on a bulletin board in the Science Building, forecasts sustained high sales of automobiles through the 70's.

In the past two years, American industry has produced and consumers have bought a million snowmobiles. The highest material standard of living in the world: a thousand dollars and nothing to spend it on until someone invents the snowmobile. A million dollars' capital and nothing profitable to invest it in but a snowmobile factory. People go tearing around, tearing up the woods. Ecological action requires drastic economic change: change, in our anarchic economy, is brought about only by profitability or by a crisis.

The box on the editorial page of the same **Campus:** "The American economic and social order is essentially irrational —

Continued on page 7

W. H. Audeu: The Aesthetic Plateau

BY BILL WELLINGTON

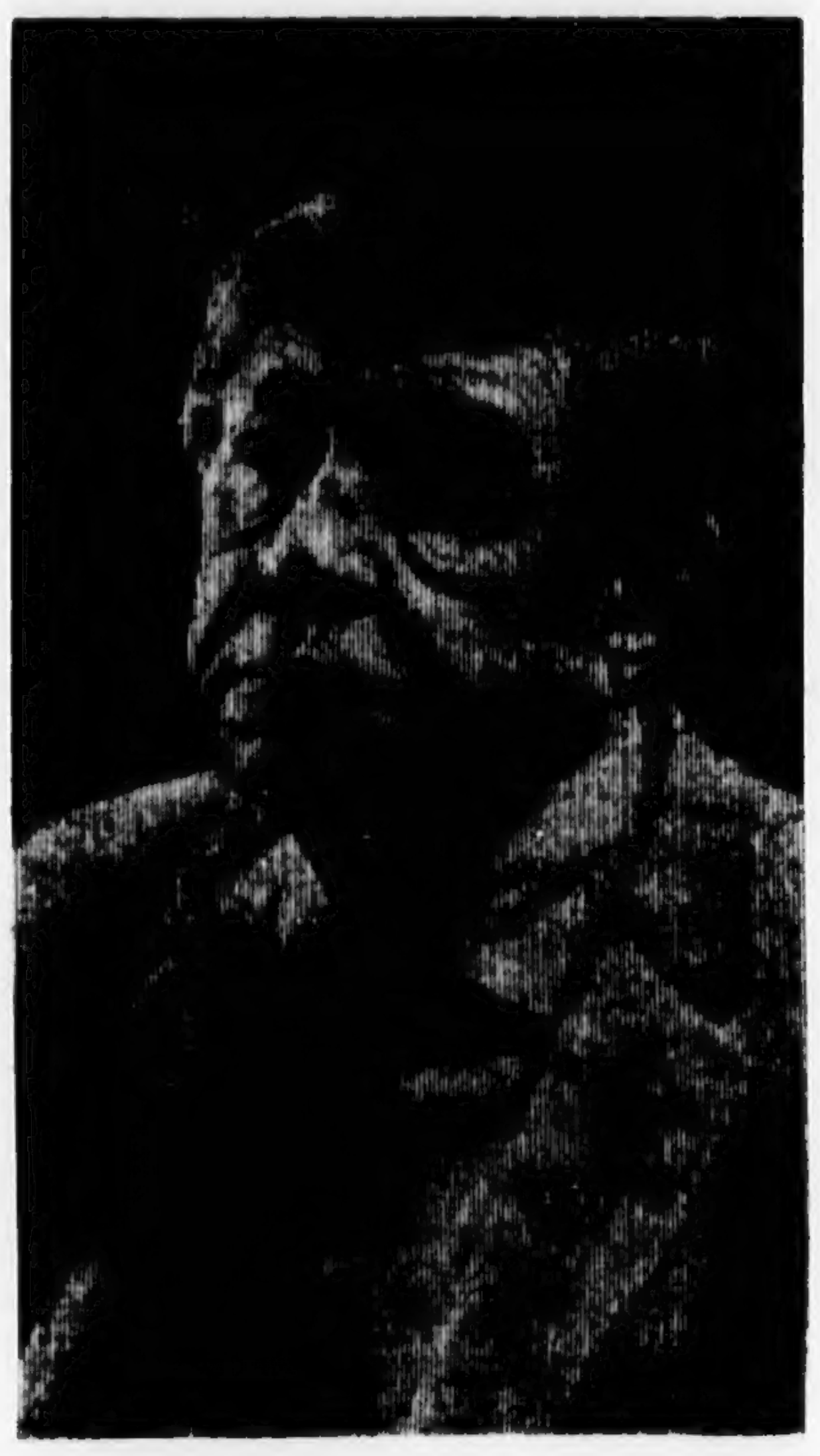
"City Without Walls and Other Poems"
by W. H. Auden, 124 pages, $4.50
Random House

"Be not too hard"

A poem by its nature must contain some form of celebration, for a poem is a lateral attempt to rise above the mundane to some aesthetic plateau. The poet's reflective nature verifies the assumption that even his bitterest satire must be considered didactic, for a man who writes in verse cannot be totally disillusioned.

W. H. Auden's latest collection of poetry, **City Without Walls,** contains many scathing criticisms of man and man's works. The title poem is an unrestrained savage profile of New York City, and its inhabitants. Of the urban breadwinner and his wife Auden writes:

"Every workday Eve fares
forth to the stores her food to pluck
while Adam hunts an easy dollar:
unperspiring at eventide
both eat their bread in boredom of spirit."



Auden

The weekend, says Auden, is no longer a holy feast, but "just time out." As for the place and importance of mass media in the urbanite's life he writes:

"What they view may be vulgar rubbish
what they listen to witless noise,
but it gives shelter, shields them from
Sunday's bane, the basilisking
glare of Nothing, our pernicious foe."

One wonders if in all of poetry there is a more biting comment on mankind than Auden's characterization of "our pernicious foe" as "the basilisking glare of Nothing."

The monologue form gives way to a tirade of rambling criticism. Significantly, there are no periods between lines sixty-five and one hundred. Finally, the form changes from five line stanzas to three line stanzas indicating a pause in thought. Auden writes:

"Thus I was thinking at three A.M.
in mid-Manhatten till interrupted,
cut short by a sharp voice.
"What fun and games you find it to play
Jeremiah - cum - Juvenal:
Shame on you for your Schadenfreude
(Lit. - "malicious joy" Idiom-"sadism")

Even after Auden has so slapped himself on the wrist, it is hard to see signs of celebration in his work. But I think that the last lines of the poem solve this problem, and in effect, invite the reader to go on in the book:

"Thereupon, bored a third voice
(to Auden's and his reprimander's)
'Go to sleep now, for God's sake!
You will both feel better by breakfast time!'

Auden's mention of tomorrow indicates that he realizes that his bitter state of mind is transitory, and that something will make him feel better the next day. He wants us to read on to discover just what it is that will make him feel better, what will make up his celebration.

For me, the answer to the nature of Auden's celebration as found in a group of very short poems entitled "Marginalia." Here, Auden shows great sympathy and love of man and his feeble attempts to overcome his fears and his susceptibility. The essence of most of the short poems is irony, but it is a mild sort of irony that inclusive to all mankind. It is irony that makes us laugh at ourselves, realize common bonds,. and realize that our idiosincracies are not unique:

"Few can remember
clearly when innocence came
to an end,
the moment at which we ask
for the first time: Am I loved?"
"Lonely he may be
but, each time he bolts his door
the last thing at night,
his heart rejoices: 'No one
can interfere with me now'
"Afraid after long
Separation of meeting
a hostile stranger,
the two old friends reaffirmed
their pact with pearls of laughter."

What Auden will give you by reading this collection is the sense that despite the despair of the city, the blight of the lonely and the boredom of daily life, joy can be found in man. For although man is stupid, greedy, slothful and cruel, he is also fragile and is basically only trying to sustain himself.

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The Campus

Opinions expressed on the editorial page do not necessarily reflect the official position of the College. Signed columns, letters and articles are the responsibility of the writer.

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Track Trounces Trinity And Williams In Openers

By ROBERT BUXBAUM

The Middlebury trackmen started the season with dual-meet victories over Williams and Trinity last week. The Panthers triumphed by an 86-63 margin over Williams, and 85 1-2 to 50 1-2 margin over Trinity.

When asked about the team's performance, Coach Stub Mackey said that he was "quite pleased with the way things are going right now." Coach Mackey went on to cite "double victories" in both the "sprints and distance runs" as important factors in the first two victories.

In their opening meets, the Panthers have shown an excellent balance in both track and field events. There are a number of trackmen who have performed excellently in the first two meets. In the sprints, Rick Kelley has won the 100-yard dash and the 220-yard dash at both meets, and Dag Berntsen has performed admirably by taking both 440-yard races. In distance running, Joe McNulty has proved himself virtually unbeatable by taking both the mile and 2-mile runs at both meets. In field events, Bob Whittaker has twice won in the long jump and Mark Yeager, captain of the team, has taken the javelin by wide margins at both meets. Ferguson has won at both meets in the hammer throw, and Bianchetti was a double-victor in the pole vault. Other victories went to Steve Peach in the 120-yard high hurdles and Phil Pope in the triple jump at Williams, and to Carl Anderson in the 880-yard run against Trinity.

The team is now preparing for an important duel meet with RPI. The RPI track team has won this meet in each of the last three years. Coach Mackey commented on the upcoming meet by saying that it would undoubtedly be "the toughest meet all year." He pointed to RPI as "the team on the schedule with the most depth." Coach Mackey refrained from making any predictions about the meet but did say that "everyone would have to be at his best" in order to win.

Don't Speed on Highways

Errors Triumph, Midd Nine Lose

By SANDY HOLLIS

Once again, errors seemed to be the undoing of the Middlebury baseball team, as they dropped a 5-4 decision to MIT in their home opener this past Saturday afternoon. Errors in the early innings gave the Engineers an early 4 to 0 lead, and made it a tough uphill battle the rest of the afternoon.

Senior Ed Miller was given the starting nod, and seemed to start slow on the bone-chilling day. In the second inning, MIT scored three runs on a pair of walks, a single, a double and an error. Then in the fourth, they got one more on a throwing error, a wild pitch, and a single. Finally, in the bottom of the third and again in the fifth.

Junior Barry Metayer, playing shortstop, who finished with three hits, and captain Frank Badger led the attack with doubles. Two errors on behalf of MIT, and two sacrifices brought sophomore Mike Goldberger around to score the tying run.

Both teams settled down as Miller seemed to gain strength as the game wore on. Ed pitched shutout ball into extra innings, while at the same time, his teammates were held scoreless after their catch-up rally. Then in the twelve inning an Engineer reached first an another error, moved to second on a sacrifice, and scored on a single to left field.

In the final half of the inning the Panthers tried to comeback with Metayer reaching on hit-batsman ruling. However, he died on the base when John Tuohy flied to the shortstop, and Jake Gilhooley struck out.

The Panthers, with strong hitting in all of their games so far, are looking for a defensive tightening up as Coach Wendy Forbes heads for UVM in a state series game on Thursday.

Laxmen Lose to UNH

The University of New Hampshire lacrosse team capitalized on some second half lapses on behalf of the usually strong Middlebury defense to score six goals to come from behind and defeat the Panthers 7-5, Saturday.

Midd had built an early lead of 3 to 1 at the half, and even held a slim margin of 5-4 after three periods. The leading scorer for Midd was Rick Moore with four goals.

Varsity Tennis Looks To A Winning Season, Records Stands At 2-1

By JOHN STEVENSON

The Middlebury varsity tennis team again seems headed for a winning season. To date it has compiled a 2-1 record, and, thanks to the addition of St. Michael's to the schedule, should go on to finish a respectable 7-3.

Since the loss of John Mallouk two years ago, the team has been without an omnipotent number one man, and thus has had to rely on depth to insure victory.

This year's team is no exception. Senior Co-captains John Stevenson and Jim Russell head tht list of returning lettermen which includes Goose Nichols, Nat Ayer, and oh yes, Spider "Lou" Mills. Rounding out the squad are hard-hitting transfer Pete Nestler, senior Don Spaidal, and Bim Gander, up from last year's freshman team.

Opening Loss

The first match was played at Wesleyan during spring vacation, with Russell, Spaidal, and Ayer the only regulars showing up. Thus while Nestler and Stevenson caught rays and women in Ft. Lauderdale, and Nichols did the same in Aspen, rookie coach Pete Rapelye was greeted with a 9-0 shut out in his debut.

UVM Goes Down

However, with forces regrouped a week later, the team traveled to Burlington and buried the Catamounts by a score of 7-2. Playing first singles, Russell threw his famed "high floating junk" at ex-Midd student Woody Miller for three long sets before succumbing. Afterwards he humbly attributed the defeat to his superb physical condition. At number two, Stevenson volleyed, dirt-balled, and hooked his way to a 9-7, 6-3 victory over scrappy Cat Bill Fous.

Using a wooden racquet for better control, Pete Nestler battled evenly against Vermont's Steve Clark, but hit just a few too many out and took a 7-5, 6-4 loss. But here the UVM success ended, as Middlebury swept the remaining singles matches. Nichols used his devastating serve and forehand to literally blow Vermont's no. four off the court, while steady Spaidal stroked his way to a similar victory. Finally, at no. six, Nat Ayer could do no wrong as he crushed his bewildered opponent in a matter of minutes.

Thus leading 4-2 after the singles the Panthers needed only one of the remaining three doubles points to clinch the match, and to no one's surprise, the Russell-Spaidal, Ayer-Stevenson, and Nichols-Nestler combinations all proved unbeatable, making the final outcome 7-2.

Jeanne Dixon

Yesterday, the third match was played at home against Union. Though this article was written and submitted on Monday, it is safe to predict a decisive victory for Blue, since every year Union, Clarkson, and RPI are dispatched with little difficulty.

Frosh Netmen Win Opener

Last Saturday in the beautiful confines of Memorial Field House the frosh team won their first match of the season over Vermont. Winners for the Panthers were Tom Hickok at no. two, Rob Ensign at no. four, Pete Kempers at no. five, and Bruce Canade at no. six singles, while John Purinton and John Cruise were defeated at nos. one and three respectively.

All three doubles went to the Panthers to complete the 7-2 sweep.

Last Saturday Duke Nelson's 1970 golf team gained their first wins of the season, opening against Clarkson, downed 4-3 in a 7 man team match, and Plattsburg State, taken more easily 4-2 in a 6 man match.

Letters . . .

Continued from page 3

out that these decisions are continually frustrating a sizeable minority on campus. I ask our administration to merely read about what is happening at other colleges. It can happen here, baby.

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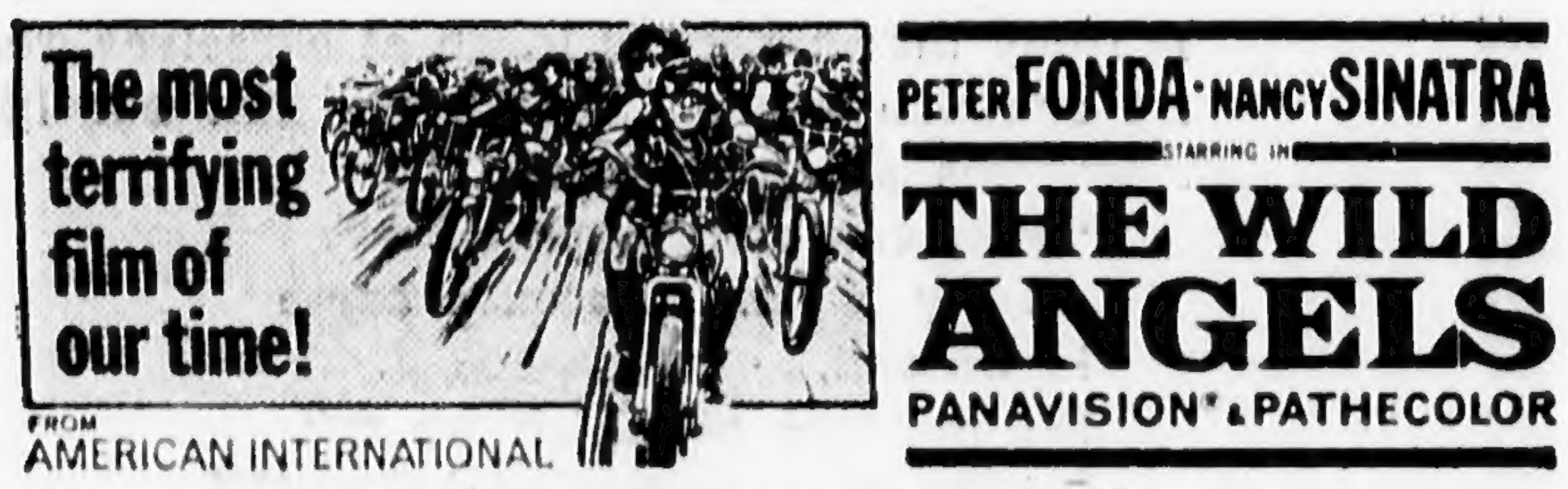
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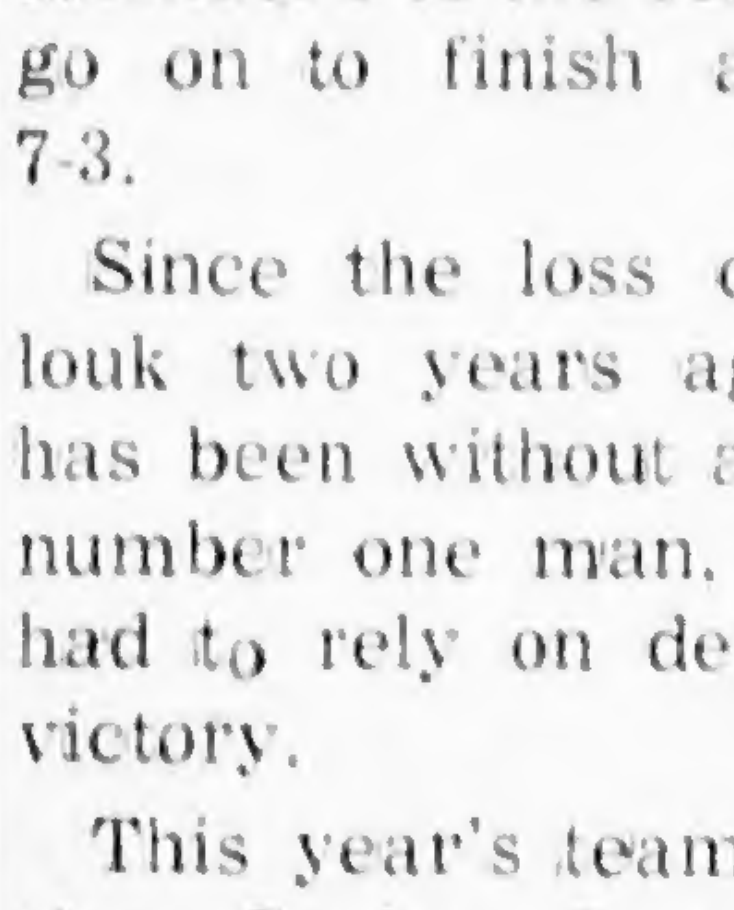

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Miss Vermont, The Plastic Cinderella Eyes of Chemical Glow, Hair of Tinsel

By MICHELINE FEDYCK

Miss Vermont 1970, that vision of loveliness, that wealth of talent and poise, that sweet, disarming product of Middleamerica (replete with a finishing education at Green Mountain College) has at last been chosen. In a tense Burlington Memorial Auditorium on Saturday night, one of eight beauties was selected for the coveted honor.

Dean Dale DeLetis, long esteemed to be a man of taste and high standards, served as one of the five honorable judges. His ballot helped decide who would leave that room with $1,000 scholarship money in hand, and the exciting future of "big-time beauty" in Atlantic City.

Interviewed recently, Dean DeLetis, an inveterate Miss America pageant viewer took a giant step backward to objectively take stock of this peculiar American institution and the role he was destined to play in it.

The five honored judges (three men and two women, two experts in drama and one in qualified the other two?) were instructed to consider the contestants in a rather abstract, mathematical light. The magic formula to be employed was: 50 percent talent, 25 percent evening gown, and 25 percent swimsuit.

After listening to this rather crude breakdown of human worth, Dean DeLetis, true to the academic community, raised his hand and expressed his view. "The eight lovelies should also **be be required to demonstrate that they held opinions and ideas about matters which are important to them. Miss Vermont must be a thinking individual."**

"Oh no," protested the rest of the judges. "We don't want a Miss Vermont to use her platform to foment revolutionary unrest and spread radical programs." Anyway, Miss America (who Miss Vermont will someday surely become) is sheltered from the slightest possibility of ever really **saying** anything during her reign.

The preliminary interviews revealed to Dean DeLetis what golden nuggets of homespun wisdom a Miss Vermont will customarily utter. The typical query "Why did you enter the Miss Vermont Pageant?" elicits a lightening quick response. The smile automatically flashes, the eyes begin to chemically sparkle and the pat little pre-packaged answer is enunciated in voice trained tones: "Oh, ever since I was a wee little girl, I've dreamed of being a Miss America."

The ultimate winner's reply to "Why did you decide to become a ballet dancer?" was heart-rendingly delivered with eyes modestly cast downward, "God gave me this wonderful gift, and I feel it is my duty to share my thoughts with others, and I love ballet. . .and I love you all, too."

Plastic smile dinners and parades, and tinsel hair commercials just don't seem to require any **thinking.**

Dean DeLetis, realizing that he wasn't making any headway in his feeble attempts to change the way in which the establishment chooses its beauty queens, decided to relax and have fun. Some would call it "copping out to the system." For the other judges, bedecked in tuxedos and silver evening apparel, the positions they held were privileged and honorable. To Dean DeLetis, sporting a green tweed jacket and red and green striped tie, the position was good for a helluva laugh.

Madison Avenue's marketing offices for Oldsmobile and Toni Corporations were picking up the tab for the momentous weekend. DeLetis observed that the check of one dinner alone ran to well over $100. Then consider the price of flights and buses from New York and elsewhere for the judges (now why couldn't Vermont find five well qualified judges of beauty within its boundaries?), the hotel bills for three nights, and the eight specially-constructed-for-parade-routes - Oldsmobiles (they don't overheat while moving slowly) and you come up with a sizeable sum of money.

Perhaps this **summer, as 50 products of Middleamerica magically drift onto the state where their fate will be decided, the audience will hear the angry chant of a handful of women, and smell the smoke of burning bras? Could it be?. . .oh no; not in wonderful marvelous, sunfilled Atlantic City. . .yes it is. . ."Women, be liberated."**

As one "eager to please" contestant simpered to Dean DeLetis upon being asked her opinion of the Women's Liberation Movement, "Well, **some** women like to cook and sew, and **some** women like to go out and work. You know, **I** think everybody should just do her own thing."

DeLetis watched as crass, materialistic, profit - motivated American industry exploited the vast realm of Middleamerica and its innocent children. 'This is a true tale of "Beauty and the Beast." But everyone seemed to be satisfied. . .that is, everyone except the seven lovelies, trained to politely clap for the victor in the wake of their own defeat. But even they end up with some scholarship money and the satisfaction of their narcissistic tendencies. The judges are "honored" and Middleamerica nods with approval as its own values are reaffirmed.

Is Miss America a permanent fixture on the American scene? Will millions of TV viewers continue to tune into the strained monologue of Bert Parks and the sight of 50 plastic cinderellas each summer and eagerly await the judgment of selected await and women?

Letters...

Continued from page 6

unspeakably so." The American system? there is none; what we have is a ruthless corporate anarchy, the quickest in the world to apply technology but with no way of anticipating the effects of applied technology.

It keeps happening: there is still money in pollution and the production of wasteful and environmentally harmful products. Today's individual profits are earned on tomorrow's collective disaster. Profit is today and disaster is tomorrow; profit and disaster don't obey the law of supply and demand. Even if a government agency were charged with investigating and passing on the total consequences of developments in applied technology, could anyone think fast enough to anticipate the effects of these developments? Could the agency avoid becoming bound in corruption to the industry it would regulate — unlike the FTC (price fixing), the FDA (poisons in foods), or the FCC (network television)?

If tomorrow is to have anything to do with supply and demand, or anything, this country will have to change its economic priorities. This means, somehow, Chrysler Corporation will have to be convinced not

(Continued on Page 3)

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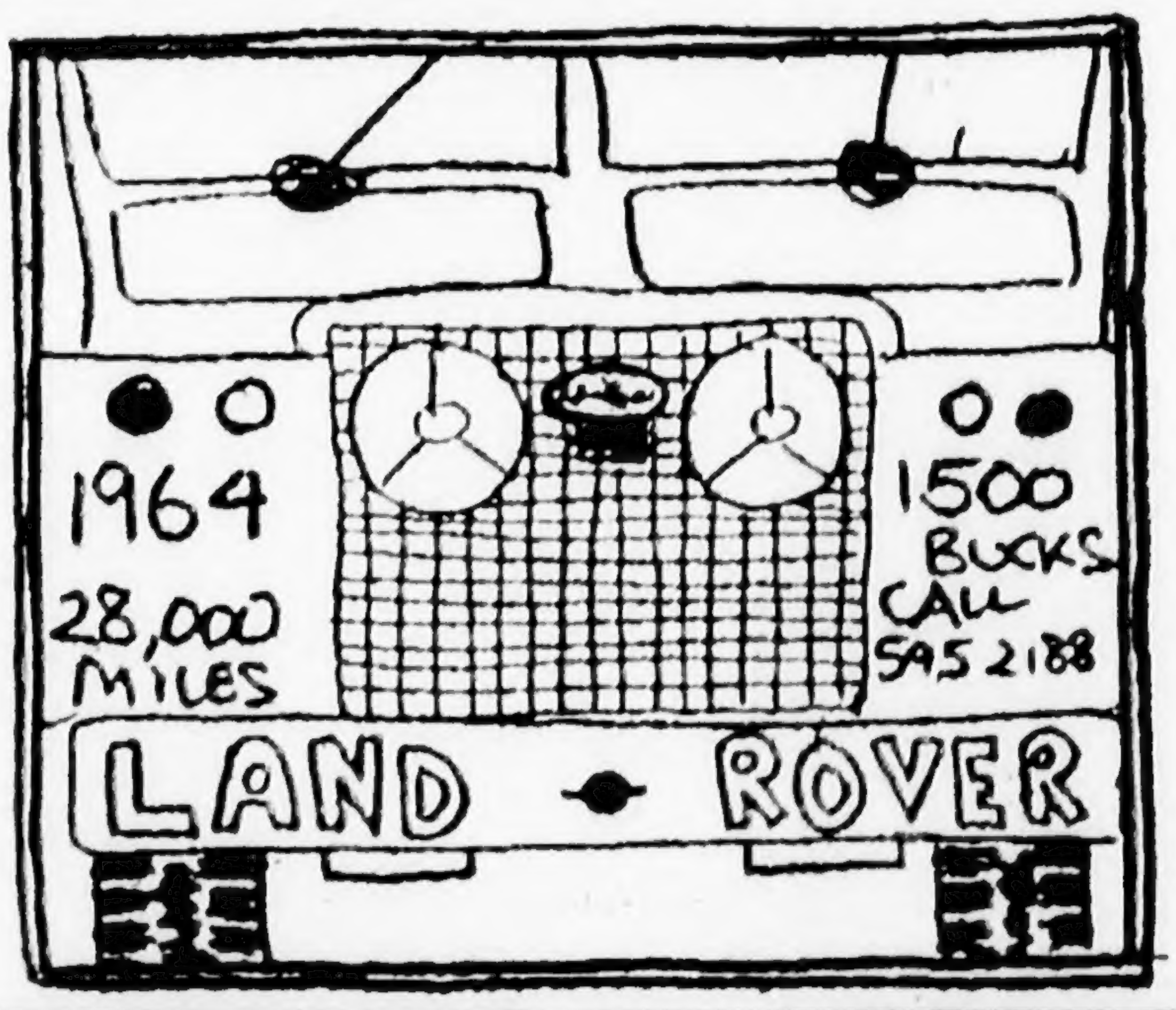

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Performing Self

(Continued From Page 1)

play, is transposed into an all encompassing subjective view of the world as a literal stage. To write fiction, for James and Mailer is to "create reality."

The distinction of Frost, Marvell and Thoreau between "The power of poetry and the act of politics" and the concept that "the world performs itself and creates its own metaphors" disappears in the writings of James and Mailer. The product of performance becomes a function of the act of performance. Mailer believes that the first artwork of any artist is the shaping of the self, the creation of his own personality.

The self shaped in the artist by the artist is his work. Mailer and James are "writers who find themselves in composition," and this process frequently involves overproduction in which the performer, not the energy of performance becomes the motive force behind any literary creation. Mailer's consciousness must be the nexus for any external event and he must "appropriate through metaphor anything which might remain outside or external to him."

Mailer's own act of self discovery develops into a self watchfulness which is transformed into a form of political "world watchfulness." In his description of John Kennedy's death in **Presidential Papers**, the realization of the event does move into Mailer's consciousness from the external world, but is described as the personal product of an internal revelation. The death does not explode upon his consciousness, but rather Mailer's grief explodes upon the death, moving the focus of events from the act to the reaction.

Henry James, like Mailer is involved with the concept of the artists "creating himself in sentences." The writer is a "master worker," a "modern alchemist." The act of writing is a mode of performance. Literature is the molding of energy in "response to feeling." It is an "act of keeping alive," It is both an assertion and a product of existence; both men and word, hand and paper.

Drive Carefully

Unliberated

Saturday, April 18
8:10 p. m.

To the Editor:

Middlebury Men: Starr Library graffitti claims "Midd Girls Won't." We say, "Who says?" There are a good number of attractive, somewhat intelligent, and even 'fun-loving' girls sitting here in the Batts tonight.

Just what are you gentlemen doing?? You can't **all** have hometown honeys. We see you occupying entire rows of Dana Auditorium. (You see, we do go to movies occasionally; we don't study **all** the time.) Are you afraid of us? **We** aren't going to drag you to the altar after two evenings together. We really aren't afraid of **you**. . .

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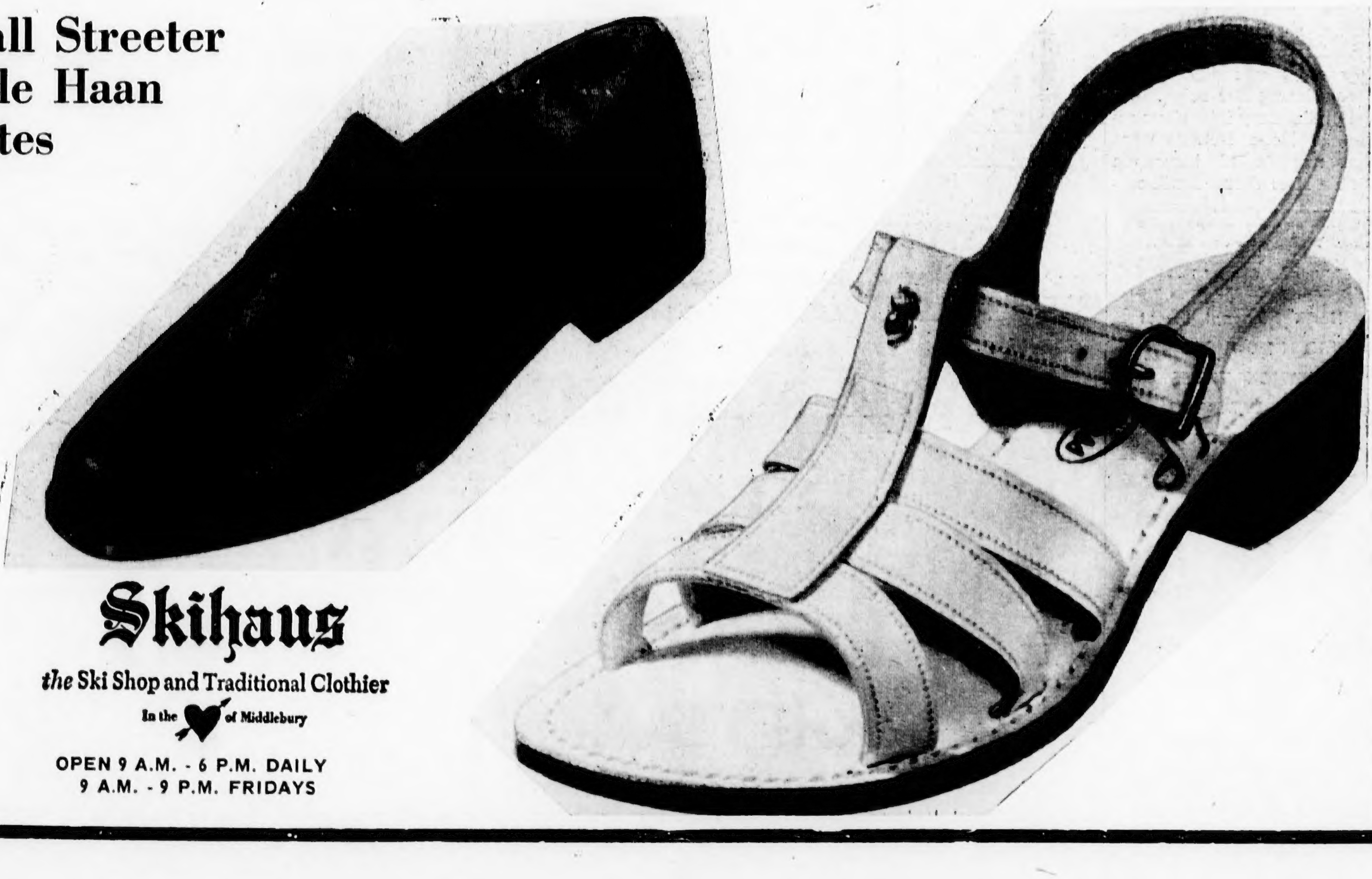

Skihaus
the Ski Shop and Traditional Clothier
In the ♥ of Middlebury

OPEN 9 A.M. - 6 P.M. DAILY
9 A.M. - 9 P.M. FRIDAYS